

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-25 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended; and claims 24 and 25 have been added. No new matter has been added.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15, and 19-23

In Section 7 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15, and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matoba *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,669; hereinafter referred to as “Matoba”) and Pietropaolo *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,351,765; hereinafter referred to as “Pietropaolo”). Claims 1, 7, and 13 have been amended to address the rejection.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was indicated that “the wizard allows a user to easily conduct a reservation setting process just by inputting settings such as a channel, starting time and ending time of a program desired to be reserved for picture recording according to setting screens that are sequentially displayed. ... [H]owever, there is a problem that since setting screens are sequentially displayed, it is difficult for a user to recognize when a reservation setting process will be completed. ... Moreover, there were problems that, as a setting screen for inputting settings and a setting results display screen for displaying the results of input settings are different, a user cannot grasp the results of settings until the settings are completely inputted, and also its operability is bad since once the input is completed, it is difficult to change the settings. ... Furthermore, there is a problems that, in the case of performing reservation setting by

using such a wizard on an audio apparatus such as a component stereo having a plurality of reservation subjects including a Compact Disk (CD), a Mini Disk (MD)(Trademark) and an FM radio, for instance, configuration of a wizard becomes complicated due to the plurality of reservation subjects and thus operability is impaired.” *Specification, page 2, lines 1-22.*

To overcome the above-described problem in the conventional reservation setting process, embodiments of the present invention provide apparatus, method, and program storage medium for performing a reservation registration process of causing an arbitrary reservation subject to be manipulated at a specified starting time. For example, the structure of apparatus claim 1, as presented herein, includes:

“display controlling means for displaying on a display screen a plurality of reservation subject icons representing said reservation subjects and a time base display area of a calendar for performing said reservation registration, and when said reservation subject icon is moved onto said time base display area, displaying a reservation time display division in a position on said time base display area onto which said reservation subject icon is moved;

controlling means for performing said reservation registration taking a time according to the display position of said reservation time display division on said time base display area as a starting time of the process of said reservation subject;

selection means for receiving input media for said arbitrary reservation subject, said input media having at least one component, said selection means operating to select and mix formats of said at least one component of said media; and

process controlling means for controlling the performance of said reservation subject according to said starting time of said reservation time.”

(emphasis added)

It was indicated in Section 7 that Matoba teaches a reservation registration that combines a reservation subject icon. It was also indicated that Matoba fails to teach a time based display area (wherein when an icon is moved into the display area, the display area displays the

corresponding time division), and a selection means (for receiving input media for the arbitrary reservation subject, and input media having at least one component, the selection means operating to select and mix formats of the at least one component of the media). However, it was indicated that Pietropaolo teaches means for providing similar functions as the time based display area and the selection means.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above-described characterization of Pietropaolo. Although the Office Action indicates that Pietropaolo discloses receiving media of different formats in column 1, lines 5-12, the indicated paragraph does not seem to refer to receiving of media components that are similar to the input media for the arbitrary reservation subject recited in claim 1. Further, even assuming that Pietropaolo does indicate receiving media of different formats, Pietropaolo fails to teach or suggest selecting and mixing formats.

Further, in the interest of moving the claims along toward allowance, claims 1, 7, and 13 were further amended. For example, the reservation registration apparatus of claim 1 includes a display controlling means for displaying a plurality of reservation subject icons and a time base display area of a calendar for performing the reservation registration; a controlling means for performing the reservation registration; a selection means for receiving input media for the arbitrary reservation subject; and a process controlling means for controlling the performance of the reservation subject according to the start time of the reservation time.

Matoba and Pietropaolo, in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest having a display controlling means for displaying a plurality of reservation subject icons and a time base display area of a calendar for performing the reservation registration; a controlling means for performing the reservation registration; a selection means for receiving input media for the

arbitrary reservation subject; and a process controlling means for controlling the performance of the reservation subject according to the start time of the reservation time.

Based on the foregoing discussion, claim 1 should be allowable over the combination of Matoba and Pietropaolo. Furthermore, independent claims 7 and 13 closely parallel, and include substantially similar limitations as, claim 1. Thus, claims 7 and 13 should also be allowable over the combination of Matoba and Pietropaolo. Since claims 2-3 and 19-23 depend from claim 1, claims 2-3 and 19-23 should also be allowable over the combination of Matoba and Pietropaolo. Since claims 8-9 depend from claim 7, claims 8-9 should also be allowable over the combination of Matoba and Pietropaolo. Since claims 14-15 depend from claim 13, claims 14-15 should also be allowable over the combination of Matoba and Pietropaolo.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-15 and 19-23 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17

In Section 15 of the Office Action, claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matoba, Pietropaolo, and Protheroe *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,414,686; hereinafter referred to as “Protheroe”).

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claims 1, 7, and 13, and since claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 depend from one of claims 1, 7, and 13, claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 should be allowable over the combination of Matoba and Pietropaolo.

Further, it was indicated in Section 15 that Protheroe teaches the ability to move whole reservations around on the display screen. Therefore, it is maintained that Matoba, Pietropaolo,

and Protheroe, in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest having a display controlling means for displaying a plurality of reservation subject icons and a time base display area of a calendar for performing the reservation registration; a controlling means for performing the reservation registration; a selection means for receiving input media for the arbitrary reservation subject; and a process controlling means for controlling the performance of the reservation subject according to the start time of the reservation time.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 4, 5, 10, 11, 16 and 17 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

§ 103 Rejection of Claims 6, 12 and 18

In Section 16 of the Office Action, claims 6, 12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matoba, Pietropaolo, and Crow *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,538,665; hereinafter referred to as “Crow”). This rejection is respectfully traversed below.

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claims 1, 7, and 13, and since claims 6, 12, and 18 depend from one of claims 1, 7, and 13, claims 6, 12, and 18 should be allowable over the combination of Matoba and Pietropaolo.

Further, it was indicated in Section 16 that Crow teaches the ability to drag pieces of media into a trash bin. Therefore, it is maintained that Matoba, Pietropaolo, and Crow, in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest having a display controlling means for displaying a plurality of reservation subject icons and a time base display area of a calendar for performing the reservation registration; a controlling means for performing the reservation registration; a selection means for receiving input media for the arbitrary reservation subject; and

a process controlling means for controlling the performance of the reservation subject according to the start time of the reservation time.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 6, 12 and 18 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Newly-added Claims

Based on the foregoing discussion regarding claim 1, and since newly-added claims 24 and 25 depend from claim 1, claims 24 and 25 should be allowable over the cited prior art references.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1-25 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.


In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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